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New *Dianous* species from Khandbari District, Nepal (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)

20th contribution to the knowledge of Staphylinidae

by

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With 4 figures

ABSTRACT

Two new species, *Dianous loebli* and *D. bhotius* are described from material collected by I. Löbl and A. Smetana in Nepal.

Thanks to my friends A. Smetana and V. Puthz I have been able to study the rich *Dianous* material collected by A. Smetana (Ottawa) and I. Löbl (Geneva) in and around the Arun Valley in eastern Nepal. The material from the Smetana collection (a little less than half the total of 307 exx.) was sent to me directly, but the Geneva Museums share was first studied by Puthz, who only forewarded the species he recognised as new or in other ways crytical. I offer my thanks to both these colleagues.

In the interests of economy of space, data are only given for the new species; bibliographic references and known distributions of the other species may be found in PUTHZ 1980 & 1981 and in ROUGEMONT 1985.

The material includes 21 taxa, of which the following 9 were already known from Nepal: *D. cyanovirens* (Cam.), *D. viriditinctus* (Champ.), *D. viridicupreus* Rougemont, *D. nigrovirens* (Fv.), *D. chetri* Rougemont, *D. cyanogaster* Champ., *D. versicolor* Cam., *D. gregarius* Rougemont and *D. Championi* Cam. Another 10 described taxa are here recorded for the first time from Nepal: *D. lobigerus* Champ., *D. assamensis* Cam., *D. luteoguttatus* Champ., *D. aereus* Champ., *D. andrewesi* Cam., *D. bimaculatus* Cam., *D. miripes* Rougemont, *D. cameroni* Champ., *D. frater* Cam. and *D. distigma* Champ.

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The 5 exx. of *D. distigma,* determined by Puthz, differ so markedly from typical exx. from Uttar Pradesh that I first assumed that they belonged to a new species. The Nepalese exx. are more robust, with proportionately larger and more densely sculptured elytra, the surface of the whole fore-body, especially that of the head is duller, due to stronger microsculpture and the elytra are totally immaculate. These differences mean that the new form cannot be identified by using PUTHZ' keys. In that to the immaculate species (1981), it would run to *D. subtortuosus* Champ. which it resembles more closely than it does the typical form. It differs from *D. subtortuosus* by its less uneven pronotum, by the broader and shallower emargination of the male eighth sternite, and by the aedeagus, which is identical to that of the typical form.

The new exx. of *D. gregarius* Rougemont differ from the Types of that species by their smaller size; the shape of the aedeagus clearly shows however that they belong to this species and not to the variable *D. versicolor* Cam.

The four exx. of *D. viridicupreus* Rougemont in this collection also differ remarkably from the Type. They belong to the form referred to as "*Dianous* n. sp." on page 131 of my 1985 article, based on a single female also from Khandbari District. The discovery of a male shows that it belongs to *D. viridicupreus* although the two forms are superficially distinct and allopatric (both are brachypterous). The new form has a broader head, and much coarser puncturation of the whole fore-body, that of the pronotum distinctly transversely confluent, the interstitial rugae of the elytra much coarser, less numerous, and more strongly confluent. The metallic reflex of the fore-body is uniformly dark green, without the coppery portions of the typical form.

The remaining two species, which both belong to the *nigrovirens* group (*Dianous* group 1 in PUTHZ 1981) are new to science.

Dianous bhotius sp. n.

♀ Holotype: E. NEPAL, Kosi, 2 km E Mangsingma, 1900 m, 19.IV.1984, Löbl-Smetana; 1 ♀ paratype: Kosi Val., Arun ss/Num, 1050 m, 22.IV.1984, Löbl-Smetana; 1 ♀ paratype: NEPAL, Khandbari Distr., Induwa Khola Valley 2050 m, 16.IV.1984, Smetana & Löbl. Holotype in Mus. Geneva; Paratypes in colls Smetana and Rougemont.

A robust, convex species comparable with *D. aurichalceus* (Champ.), *D. cupreoaenus* (Champ.), *D. reformator* Rougemont and *D. wittmeri* Rougemont.

Body, including labrum, entirely of a deep shiny black; antennae reddish brown; palpi and legs testaceous, the knees broadly but weekly infuscate.

Head almost as broad as elytra (78: 80); average distance between eyes: 45; vertex deeply depressed to the median line which is narrowly impunctate, shiny, the spaces between this and the eyes scarcely convex. Puncturation fairly coarse and sub-rugose, the interstices much narrower than the diameter of punctures (2-3), which is about equal to the section of base of second antennal segment. The antennae do not quite reach the base of pronotum when reflexed; antennal segments: I: 10; II: 9; III: 20; IV: 11; V: 10; VI: 9; VII: 9; VIII: 7.5; IX: 8.5; X: 8.5; XI: 9.

Pronotum convex, sub-cordate, broadest (60) 2/5ths from anterior margin, the sides convexly rounded anteriorly, strongly sinuate posteriorly; length: 63; the surface is slightly uneven, the punctures are of the same size as those of head, but closer, the interstices sharper and showing a slight tendency to transverse confluence in parts.

Elytra slightly longer than their length (83: 78), convex, the surfaces slightly uneven, their puncturation a little coarser than that of pronotum.

Abdomen not strongly tapered, somewhat depressed; breadth of IIIrd segment (measured between outer edges of paratergites): 63; breadth of VIIth segment: 50; basal tergites coarsely and relatively sparsely punctured, the diameter of punctures on average equal to that of eye-facets, the interstices about half as broad as this. Paratergites broad (Paratergite IV: 5, or slightly broader than the penultimate antennal segment), and corasely punctured, bearing two longitudinal rows of punctures equal in size to those of corresponding tergites. Ninth sternite (valvifers: Fig. 2) apically denticulate, without a prominent apico-lateral tooth or angle.

Length of metatibia: 70; metatarsal segments: I: 22; II: 8; III: 7; IV: 6; V: 15.

Male: Unknown.

Female: VIIIth abdominal sternite apically produced in a feeble median mucron.

Dianous bhotius n. sp. is comparable with *D. aurichalceus* (Champ.) from which it differs by its narrower thorax, less confluent sculpture of pronotum and elytra, and by its much coarser abdominal puncturation. It also resembles *D. cupreoaenus,* but does not have that species' metallic colours, and has coarser and sparser abdominal puncturation. The new species is less similar to *D. reformator* Rougemont and *D. wittmeri* Rougemont because in these the head is much narrower than the elytra, and both have metallic coloured reflexes.

Dianous loebli sp. n.

♂ Holotype, 3♂♂ & 9♀♀ Paratypes: E. NEPAL, Kosi, 2 km E. Mansingma, 1900 m, 19.IV.1984, Löbl-Smetana. Holotype and 8 Paratypes in Mus. Geneva; 2 Paratypes each in colls Puthz and Rougemont.

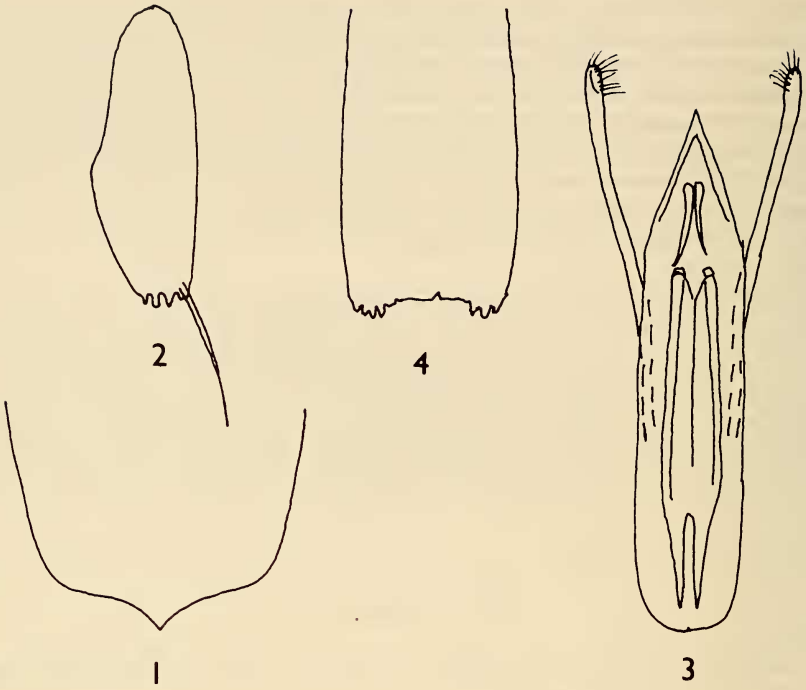
Length: ca. 4.5 mm. Black, shiny, the fore-body with a uniform dark greenish reflex; labrum black; palpi and antennae dark reddish brown; coxae black; femora testaceous in basal 1/3-1/2, black in distal portion; tibia and tarsi dark brown.

Head broader than elytra (76: 71), the median axis deeply depressed, the surfaces on either side of this line only slightly convex; average distance between eyes: 39. The punctures are coarse, in diameter equal to the section of third antennal segment, close, but the interstices flattened, on average half the diameter of punctures. Antennae fairly long and slender, almost reaching the base of pronotum; antennal segments: I: 11; II: 9; III: 17; IV: 10; V: 11; VI: 10; VII: 9.5; VIII: 7; IX: 7.5; X: 8; XI: 10.

Length of pronotum: 60; maximum breadth (2/5ths from anterior border): 55; the sides are narrowed in slightly convex curves anteriorly, sinuate posteriorly. The punctures are of about the same size as those of head, but the sculpture is quite different, the broad shiny interstices forming strong transverse rugae enclosing cells containing one to two punctures.

Elytra as broad as their greatest length (72); breadth behind humeral angles: 65. The punctures, which are of the same size as those of pronotum, are separated by broad, flattened, long confluent rugae which form a vorticose whorl near the posterior borders of each elytron. This confluent sculpture is rather coarser than that of pronotum, much coarser than in the great majority of related species.

Abdomen sub-cylindrical, only slightly compressed dorso-ventrally, with rather narrow borders (average breadth of para paratergite IV: 3.5, or scarcely broader than the second antennal segment); the tergites and paratergites are very finely and quite sparsely punctured, the largest punctures on basal segments much smaller than eye-facets, the



FIGS 1-4.

1: *Dianous bhotius* sp. n., VIIIth sternite of female; 2: *Dianous bhotius* sp. n., valvifer; 3: *Dianous loebli* sp. n., aedeagus; 4: *Dianous loebli* sp. n., male IXth sternite.

interstices broader than the diameter of punctures. Both tergites and sternites bear a very evident, fine recumbant reddish pubescence. Sternite IX (Fig. 00) with produced, rounded apico-lateral angles bearing a cluster of long denticles.

Legs rather long and slender; length of metatibia: 77; metatarsomeres: I: 21; II: 8; III: 5; IV: 5; V: 19.

Male: VIIIth sternite with a broad triangular emargination. Aedeagus: Fig. 3, the apex of the median lobe very slightly decumbant, simple, without an apico-ventral hook.

Female: VIIIth sternite apico-medially produced, as in Fig. 1 but more broadly.

In PUTHZ' key (1981) this new species runs to *D. tonkinensis* Puthz. It differs from that species by its darker legs, particularly the tibia, and by the sculpture of the pronotum and elytra which is more strongly confluent, the rugae of the elytra being much longer and thicker, their puncturation consequently reduced. The new species is also darker in colour, and has finer abdominal puncturation. The aedeagus is of the same type, but the median lobe is somewhat narrower, and the parameres are more slender.

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